

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended by making more explicit what was already explicit, i.e., that --when the tricarboxylic acid is present,-- it is a benzenetricarboxylic acid, or a monoester, diester, triester, halide, or anhydride thereof.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-22 remain pending in the application.

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Mullis for the courtesy extended to Applicants' attorney during the interview held October 7, 2008,¹ in the above-identified application. During the interview, Applicants' attorney explained the presently-claimed invention and why it is patentable over the applied prior art. The discussion is summarized and expanded upon below.

The rejections of:

Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by, and of Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over, the article at *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**, 123, 2460-2461 (Park et al),

Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Park et al in view of the article at *Macromol. Rapid Commun.* **2002**, 23, 292-296 (Frey et al), and

Claims 13-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Park et al in view of WO 02/36695, using US 7,151,153 as a translation (Bruchmann et al),

are all respectfully traversed.

In the previous response, Applicants pointed out that Claim 1 had been amended to require that the reaction recited therein be carried out in the presence or absence of at least one polyfunctional compound, and that when the polyfunctional compound is a tricarboxylic acid, it is a benzenetricarboxylic acid, or a monoester, diester, triester, halide, or anhydride thereof. Since, as Applicants pointed out, Park et al requires a core compound of formula 3 therein, which is described as an ammonia core starburst PAMAM dendrimer -0.5 generation as a core moiety, while amended Claim 1 excluded such a compound, the claims were necessarily patentable over Park et al, and over Park et al combined with the other-applied

¹ Applicants note that the Interview Summary for the interview incorrectly lists the date as October 6, 2008.

prior art, for this and other reasons. Such reasons are still relied on, and are incorporated by reference herein.

The previous Examiner found, in response to the above argument, "that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the presence of absence of the polyfunctional compound) are not recited in the rejected claim(s)."

In reply, and as Applicants' attorney explained to Examiner Mullis during the above-referenced interview, the features upon which Applicants rely **are** recited in the claims. In addition, and at the request of Examiner Mullis, the above amendment has been made although, as Applicants' attorney noted during the interview, the amendment would appear to be redundant.

Applicants also gratefully acknowledge Examiner Mullis' indication that this amendment will be entered.

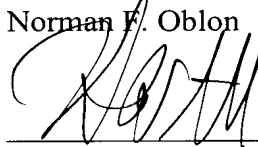
For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman F. Oblon



Harris A. Pitlick

Registration No. 38,779

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

NFO:HAP\